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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,374	12/27/2000	Tomohito Shida	1466.1024	3846

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EXAMINER

ALVAREZ, RAQUEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3622

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,374

Applicant(s)

SHIDA, TOMOHITO

Examiner

Raquel Alvarez

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to communication filed on 8/25/2006.
2. Claims 1-8 are presented for examination. Claims 1, 6-7 and 8 have been amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Shinichi et al. (JP 11283127 hereinafter Shinichi).

With respect to claims 1-2,5, 7, Shinichi teaches a point-service system that can be accessed by a customer using a terminal device (Abstract and Figure 1). A point database recording a number of points accumulated for a customer, the points being issued by one point usable facilities (paragraph 0008, lines 10-12); a use management database recording identifying information of the customer, a requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points , a recognition code issued, and information indicating whether the number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points, in response to a used (paragraph 0009, lines 4-14); means for receiving the requested number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points and for issuing the recognition code, in response to a use request with the number of reserved points from the customer (i.e. the customer

receives the identification code in order to access the reserved points system)[0008]; means for recording the issued recognition code along with the number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points in the use management database (0009, lines 4-14); means for transmitting data of a point use ticket, comprising the number of reserved points that are issued and the recognition code issued for the number of reserved points from among the accumulated number of points , to the terminal device for use of the point use ticket by the customer (i.e. the user receives the points and the recognition code in order to access the system)[0008].

With respect to claims 3-4, 6, 8, Shinichi further teaches means for adding the number of points for the invalidated recognition code to the accumulated number of points for the customer to record the added number of points as a new accumulated number of points in the point database [0009].

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant states that Schinichi only teaches an identification data for the available number of points, or the accumulated number of points, rather than a requested number of points. The Examiner disagrees with Applicant because the tickets issued are based on the requested number of points read from the IC card, the ticket issued is from the points redeemed or requested by the user.
5. Applicant argues that in Schinichi, the recognition code is not issued in response to or based upon a request for a number of points from accumulated number of points.

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The Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant because the management data is different from each ticket and is obtained from each section based on the available points after the ticket is issued, so therefore it is not issued or printed in advance as stated by Applicant. Paragraph reads as follows "After the ticket issuance processing by the ticket issuance unit 45, the data management section 70 holds a balance of available points". As can be seen by above, the management data is issued from the user's **request to redeem points** from the available points.

6. The 112 rejection has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

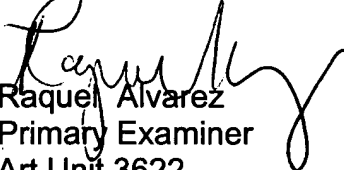
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Point of contact

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raquel Alvarez whose telephone number is (571)272-6715. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric w. Stamber can be reached on (571)272-6724. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Raquel Alvarez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3622

R.A.
11/1/2006